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EXAMINER

HARPER, LEON JONATHAN

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2166

DATE MAILED: 05/16/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/606,590

Applicant(s)

POLSON ET AL.

Examiner

Leon J. Harper

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 March 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-71 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-71 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 5/9/06.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The amendment filed 3/7/2006 has been entered. Claims 2,29 have been amended. No claims have been cancelled. Claims 1-71 remain pending in this office action.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-71 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 1, 2, 11, 12, 19, 20-24, 26-33, 41-71 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 6785688 (hereinafter Aba) in view of US 6877134 (hereinafter Fuller).

As for claim 1 Aba discloses: opening media content that does not include a table of contents (See column 3 lines 28-31); extracting search criteria from the media content (See column 3 lines 28-30); searching a database that contains media content metadata based on the search criteria (See column 6 lines 19-22); displaying one or more sets of metadata that, based on the search criteria, may be associated with the media content (See column 5 lines 39-42 note the metadata must be displayed); receiving an indication of a user selection of a particular one of the sets of metadata; and storing the particular set of metadata in a media library, such that the set of metadata is associated with the media content (See column 5 line 65- column 6 line 3)

While Aba does not differ substantially from the claimed invention the disclosure of receiving a request for metadata associated with the media content is not necessarily explicit. Fuller however does disclose receiving a request for metadata associated with the media content (See column 13 lines 36-39); It would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the pertinent art to have incorporated the teaching of Fuller into the system of Aba in order to actually request metadata. The modification would have been obvious because metadata is created or generated based on the file it is associated and this means that when a request is made based on metadata there are

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less frivolous results which is a problem with common search mechanisms (See Aba column 2 lines 11-15 and lines 34-36).

As for claim 2 the rejection of claim 1 is incorporated, and further Aba discloses: wherein the media content includes a data structure for storing textual metadata associated with the media content (See column 5 lines 58-60).

As for claim 12 the rejection of claim 1 is incorporated, and further Aba discloses: submitting search criteria to a server computer system (See column 5 lines 23-25); and receiving search results from the server computer system (See column 3 lines 27-30).

As for claim 19 the rejection of claim 1 is incorporated, and further Aba discloses: writing the metadata to a media library, such that the metadata is associated with a particular media ID; and associating the particular media ID with the media content (See column 6 lines 54-56).

As for claim 20 the rejection of claim 19 is incorporated and further Aba discloses: wherein the associating comprises modifying the media content to include the media ID (See column 6 lines 2-4 and lines 54-56 ID is part of the enhancing and storing process).

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As for claim 21 the rejection of claim 19 is incorporated, and further Aba discloses: wherein the associating comprises adding a binary GUID that represents the media ID to a file containing the media content (See column 6 lines 54-56 and note: that these are stored in binary)

As for claim 22 the rejection of claim 1 is incorporated, and further Aba discloses wherein the media content comprises an MP3 file (See column 4 line 14 .mp3 extension).

As for claim 23 the rejection of claim 1 is incorporated, and further Aba discloses: wherein the media content comprises an WMA file (See column 4 line 9 .wma extension).

As for claim 24 the rejection of claim 1 is incorporated, and further Aba discloses: receiving a request for more details associated with particular one of the sets of metadata (See column 12 lines 25-29 note: that to determine you must check and there must be a function call to check); and displaying additional data associated with particular set of metadata (See column 12 lines 46-48).

As for claim 26, the rejection of claim 24 is incorporated, and further Aba discloses: submitting a media ID associated with the particular metadata to a server computer system (See column 6 lines 55-57); receiving the additional data from the

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server computer system (See column 6 lines 58-60); and displaying the additional data (See column 6 line 59 note: data must be displayed in order to perform the various functions).

As for claim 27, the rejection of claim 1 is incorporated, and further Aba discloses: one or more computer-readable media having computer readable instructions thereon which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to implement the method as recited in claim 1 (See column 5 lines 8-11).

As for claim 28 Aba discloses: opening media content that does not include a table of contents (See column 3 lines 28-31); extracting search criteria from the media content (See column 3 lines 28-30); searching a database that contains media content metadata based on the search criteria (See column 6 lines 19-22); displaying one or more sets of metadata that, based on the search criteria, may be associated with the media content (See column 5 lines 39-42 note the metadata must be displayed); receiving an indication of a user request to modify the search criteria (See column 6 lines 3-5); displaying the search criteria to the user; receiving the user-submitted modifications to the search criteria (See column 5 lines 65-68 note metadata can be enhanced by user); searching the database that contains media content metadata based on modified search criteria (See column 6 lines 9-11); and displaying one or more sets of metadata that, based on the modified search criteria, may be associated with the media content (See column 5 lines 39-43).

While Aba does not differ substantially from the claimed invention the disclosure of receiving a request for metadata associated with the media content is not necessarily explicit. Fuller however does disclose receiving a request for metadata associated with the media content (See column 13 lines 36-39); It would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the pertinent art to have incorporated the teaching of Fuller into the system of Aba in order to actually request metadata. The modification would have been obvious because metadata is created or generated based on the file it is associated and this means that when a request is made based on metadata there are less frivolous results which is a problem with common search mechanisms (See Aba column 2 lines 11-15 and lines 34-36).

As for claim 29 the rejection of claim 28 is incorporated, and further Aba discloses: wherein the media content includes a data structure for storing textual metadata associated with the media content (See column 5 lines 58-60).

As for claim 30 the rejection of claim 29 is incorporated, and further Aba discloses: wherein the data structure for storing textual metadata comprises structures for storing at least one of an artist name, an album name, and a track name (See column 6 lines 5-7).

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As for claim 31 there rejection of claim 28 is incorporated, and further Aba discloses wherein the media content comprises an MP3 file (See column 4 line 14 .mp3 extension).

As for claim 32 the rejection of claim, the rejection of claim 28 is incorporated, and further Aba discloses: wherein the media content comprises a WMA file (See column 4 line 9 .wma extension).

As for claim 33, the rejection of claim 28 is incorporated, and further Aba discloses: one or more computer-readable media having computer readable instructions thereon which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to implement the method as recited in claim 28 (See column 5 lines 8-11).

As for claim 41 Aba discloses: extracting search criteria from media content that lacks a table of contents (See column 3 lines 28-31); the search criteria comprising at least one of a track name, an artist name, and an album name; and attempting to identify metadata associated with the media content based on the search criteria (See column 6 lines 1-6).

As for claim 42 the rejection of claim 41 is incorporated, and further Aba discloses: wherein the extracting comprises identifying data stored in attribute tags associated with the media content (See column 5 line 67 – column 6 line 2).

As for claim 43 the rejection of claim 41 is incorporated, and further Aba discloses wherein the extracting comprises parsing a filename associated with the media content (See column 4 lines 5-12 note: it has to check the format).

As for claim 44 the rejection of claim 41 is incorporated, and further Aba discloses: displaying metadata that, based on the search criteria, may be associated with the media content (See column 5 lines 39-42); receiving user selection of a particular set of the displayed metadata (See column 6 lines 29-32); and maintaining the particular set of metadata in a media library such that the metadata is associated with the media content (See column 6 lines 15-17).

As for claim 45, the rejection of claim 41 is incorporated, and further Aba discloses: if metadata associated with the media content is not found: enabling a user to modify the search criteria (See column 6 lines 2-3 note: user can add metadata if it is missing); and attempting to identify metadata associated with the media content based on modified search criteria (See column 6 lines 7-11).

As for claim 46, the rejection of claim 45 is incorporated, and further Aba discloses: comprises causing a Wizard user interface (UI) to be presented to a user via a client computer so that information pertaining to the media content can be collected from the user (note since the information is input by a user it must be done through an interface).

As for claim 47 the rejection of claim 41 is incorporated, and further Aba discloses: if metadata associated with the media content is not found: enabling a user to enter metadata to be associated with the media content;(See column 6 lines 2-3 note: user can add metadata if it is missing); maintaining the user-submitted metadata in a media library, such that the user-submitted metadata is associated with the media content (See column 6 lines 52-56).

As for claim 48 the rejection of claim 47 is incorporated, and further Aba discloses: comprises causing a Wizard user interface (UI) to be presented to a user via a client computer so that information pertaining to the media content can be collected from the user (note since the information is input by a user it must be done through an interface).

As for claim 49 the rejection of claim 41 is incorporated, and further Aba discloses wherein the media content comprises an MP3 file (See column 4 line 14 .mp3 extension).

As for claim 50, the rejection of claim 41 is incorporated, and further Aba discloses: one or more computer-readable media having computer readable instructions thereon which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to implement the method as recited in claim 1 (See column 5 lines 8-11).

As for claim 51 Aba discloses: identifying search criteria associated with media content, the media content lacking a table of contents (See column 3 lines 28-31), searching a database for metadata to be associated with the media content, the search based on the search criteria (See column 5 lines 56-58); and if no metadata to be associated with the media content is found (See column 6 lines 2-3), attempting to identify more accurate search criteria by causing a Wizard user interface (UI) to be presented to a user via a client computer so that information pertaining to the media content can be collected from the user (See column 6 lines 25-27).

As for claim 52 the rejection of claim 51 is incorporated, and further Aba discloses: comprises causing a Wizard user interface (UI) to be presented to a user via a client computer so that information pertaining to the media content can be collected from the user (note since the information is input by a user it must be done through an interface).

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As for claim 53 the rejection of claim 51 is incorporated, and further Aba discloses wherein the media content comprises an MP3 file (See column 4 line 14 .mp3 extension) and the information collected by the wizard UI comprises an artist's name (See column 6 lines 6-8).

As for claim 54 the rejection of claim 51 is incorporated, and further Aba discloses wherein the media content comprises an MP3 file (See column 4 line 14 .mp3 extension) and the information collected by the wizard UI comprises an album name (See column 6 lines 6-8).

As for claim 55 the rejection of claim 51 is incorporated, and further Aba discloses wherein the media content comprises an MP3 file (See column 4 line 14 .mp3 extension) and the information collected by the wizard UI comprises an track name (See column 6 lines 6-8).

As for claim 56 the rejection of claim 51 is incorporated, and further Aba discloses searching the database for metadata based on the information collected by the wizard ui (See column 5 lines 56-58).

As for claim 57 Aba discloses: identifying search criteria associated with media content, the media content lacking a table of contents (See column 3 lines 28-31), searching a database for metadata to be associated with the media content, the search

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based on the search criteria(See column 5 lines 56-58); and if no metadata to be associated with the media content is found, attempting to identify metadata to be associated with the media content by causing a Wizard user interface (UI) to be presented to a user via a client computer so that information pertaining to the media content can be collected from the user (See column 6 lines 1-7 note: a interface has to be displayed in order to receive missing information).

As for claim 58 the rejection of claim 57 is incorporated, and further Aba discloses: receiving information from the user, via the Wizard UI, the information pertaining to the media content (See column 5 lines 56-58).

As for claim 59 the rejection of claim 57 is incorporated, and further Aba discloses wherein the media content comprises an MP3 file (See column 4 line 14 .mp3 extension).

As for claim 60 the rejection of claim 57 is incorporated, and further Aba discloses: wherein the information collected by the UI comprises at least one of an artist name, an album name, and a track name (See column 6 lines 5-7).

As for claim 61 the rejection of claim 57 is incorporated, and further Aba discloses: storing the information collected by the Wizard UI, the information pertaining to the media content (See column 5 lines 56-58).

Claims 62-71 comprise substantially the same limitations as claims 51-61 and are thus rejected for substantially the same reasons as claims 51-61.

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aba and Fuller as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of US 20020188603 (hereinafter Baird).

As for claim 11, the rejection of claim 1 is incorporated, and further Aba discloses: identify metadata that may be associated with the media content (See column 5 lines 40-42). Aba and Fuller differ however from the claimed invention in that expanding the search criteria to include similar search terms; and searching a music metadata database based on the expanded search criteria is not explicitly disclosed: Baird however does disclose: expanding the search criteria to include similar search terms; and searching a music metadata database based on the expanded search criteria (See paragraph 0032). It would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the pertinent art to have incorporated the teaching of Baird into the system of Fuller and Aba. The modification would have been obvious because expanding the search to encompass similar terms makes searching easier and quicker (See Baird paragraph 0005).

Claim 25 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aba and Fuller as applied to claim 24 above, and further in view of US 670721 (hereinafter Chase).

As for claim 25 the rejection of claim 24 is incorporated and further Aba and Fuller differ from the claimed invention in that wherein the particular set of metadata is associated with music album, and wherein the additional data comprises a list of tracks associated with the music album is not explicitly disclosed.

Chase however does disclose: wherein the particular set of metadata is associated with music album, and wherein the additional data comprises a list of tracks associated with the music album (See column 3 lines 62-64). It would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the pertinent art to have incorporated, the teaching of Chase into the system of Aba and Fuller. The modification would have been obvious because listing music tracks makes it easier to find a particular song when an artist has more than album in the database. Moreover Aba does disclose metadata comprising of album information (See Aba column 12 lines 1-2).

Claims 3,5-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aba and Fuller as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Music Match user guide (hereinafter Mmatch).

As for claim 3, the rejection of claim 2 is incorporated, and further Mmatch discloses: wherein the data structure for storing textual metadata comprises attribute tags for storing at least one of an artist name, an album name, and a track name (See "Tagging MP3 files". It would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the pertinent art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated the teaching on Mmatch into the system of Aba and Fuller. The modification would have been obvious because tagging allows for faster access since the tags are more recognizable by the user.

As for claim 5, the rejection of claim 1 is incorporated, and further Mmatch discloses: wherein the extracting comprises stored in an attribute tag associated with the media identifying an artist name content (See Mmatch page 4 Tagging).

As for claim 6, the rejection of claim 1 is incorporated, and further Mmatch discloses: wherein the extracting comprises identifying an album name stored in an attribute tag associated with the media content (See Mmatch page 4 Tagging).

As for claim 7, the rejection of claim 1 is incorporated, and further Mmatch discloses: wherein the extracting comprises identifying a track name stored in an attribute tag associated with the media content (See Mmatch page 4 tagging).

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As for claim 8, the rejection of claim 1 is incorporated, and further Mmatch discloses: wherein the extracting comprises parsing a filename associated with the media content based on a particular character to identify an artist name and a track name (See Mmatch page 4 tagging).

As for claim 9 the rejection of claim 1 is incorporated, and further Mmatch discloses: wherein the extracting comprises identifying a portion of a filename associated with the media content as a track name (See Mmatch page 4 tagging).

As for claim 10, the rejection of claim 1 is incorporated, and further Mmatch discloses: wherein the extracting comprises identifying a portion of a filename associated with the media content as an artist name (See Mmatch page 4 tagging).

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aba and Fuller and Mmatch as applied to claim 3 above, and further in view of Softpointer.com (hereinafter Pointer) (Art of record).

As for claim 4, the rejection of claim 3 is incorporated and further Pointer discloses: wherein the media content is formatted as an MP3 file and the attribute tags comprise a plurality of ID3 tags (See page 1 paragraph 1).

Claims 13-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aba and Fuller and Mmatch as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of US 20040175159 (hereinafter Oetzel).

As for claim 13, the rejection of claim 1 is incorporated, and further Aba and Fuller differ from the claimed invention in that wherein the displaying one or more sets of metadata that, based on the search criteria, may be associated with the media content comprises displaying one or more graphical tiles of data, such that each tile displays a track name, an album name, and an artist name is not explicitly indicated. Oetzel however does disclose: wherein the displaying one or more sets of metadata that, based on the search criteria, may be associated with the media content comprises displaying one or more graphical tiles of data, such that each tile displays a track name, an album name, and an artist name (See paragraphs 0065-0096). It would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the pertinent art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated the teachings of Oetzel into the system of Aba and Fuller. The modification would have been obvious because a dvd is just a particular type of storage medium, a searchable metadata playlist on a computer allows users the ability to store even more information than the conventional DVD.

As for claim 14, the rejection of claim 13 is incorporated, and further Oetzel discloses: wherein a tile further displays a track number (See paragraph 0091).

As for claim 15, the rejection of claim 13 is incorporated, and further Oetzel discloses: wherein a tile further displays an associated album art (See paragraph 0080).

As for claim 16, the rejection of claim 13 is incorporated, and further Oetzel discloses: wherein a tile further displays an associated genre (See paragraph 0097).

As for claim 17, the rejection of claim 13 is incorporated, and further Oetzel discloses: wherein a tile further displays an associated record label (See paragraph 0079).

As for claim 18, the rejection of claim 13 is incorporated, and further Oetzel discloses: wherein a tile further displays an associated release date (See paragraph 0094).

Claims 34-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aba in view of Fuller, and in further view of Oetzel.

As for claim 34 Aba discloses opening media content that does not include a table of contents (See column 3 lines 28-31); extracting search criteria from the media content (See column 3 lines 28-30); searching a database that contains media content

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metadata based on the search criteria (See column 6 lines 19-22); displaying one or more sets of metadata that, based on the search criteria, may be associated with the media content (See column 5 lines 39-42 note the metadata must be displayed); receiving an indication of a user selection of a particular one of the sets of metadata; (See column 5 line 65- column 6 line 3).

While Aba does not differ substantially from the claimed invention the disclosure of receiving a request for metadata associated with the media content is not necessarily explicit. Fuller however does disclose receiving a request for metadata associated with the media content (See column 13 lines 36-39); It would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the pertinent art to have incorporated the teaching of Fuller into the system of Aba in order to actually request metadata. The modification would have been obvious because metadata is created or generated based on the file it is associated and this means that when a request is made based on metadata there are less frivolous results which is a problem with common search mechanisms (See Aba column 2 lines 11-15 and lines 34-36).

Aba also differs from the claimed invention in that receiving an indication of a user request to manually enter metadata to be associated with the media content', enabling the user to submit metadata; receiving user-submitted metadata is not explicitly indicated. Oetzel however does disclose: receiving an indication of a user request to manually enter metadata to be associated with the media content (See paragraph 0039), enabling the user to submit metadata; receiving user-submitted

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metadata (See paragraph 0038). It would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the pertinent art to have incorporated the teachings on Oetzel into the system of Aba and Fuller. The modification would have been obvious because a dvd is a type of storage, and allowing for the searchable content to reside on a computer means the user can store much more data than a dvd can hold.

As for claim 35, the rejection of claim 34 is incorporated, and further Aba discloses: writing the metadata to a media library, such that the metadata is associated with a particular media ID; and associating the particular media ID with the media content (See column 6 lines 55-58).

As for claim 36, the rejection of claim 35 is incorporated and further Aba discloses: wherein the associating comprises modifying the media content to include the media ID (See column 6 lines 55-58).

As for claim 37 the rejection of claim 35 is incorporated, and further Aba discloses: wherein the associating comprises modifying the media content to include the media ID (See column 6 lines 2-4 and lines 54-56 ID is part of the enhancing and storing process).

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As for claim 38, the rejection of claim 34 is incorporated, and further Aba discloses: wherein the media content comprises an MP3 file (See column 4 line 13).

As for claim 39, the rejection of claim 34 is incorporated, and further Aba discloses: wherein the media content comprises an WMA file (See column 4 line 9).

As for claim 40, the rejection of claim 34 is incorporated, and further Aba discloses: one or more computer-readable media having computer readable instructions thereon which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to implement the method as recited in claim 34 (See column 5 lines 8-11).

Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Leon J. Harper whose telephone number is 571-272-0759. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30AM - 4:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hosain T. Alam can be reached on 571-272-3978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LJH

Leon J Harper

May 9, 2006


MOHAMMAD ALI
PRIMARY EXAMINER